



## NGC News

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NGC is looking for full-time world coin specialists.

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### NGC Ancients: Circulating Roman Coinage of A.D. 12: A Look Back

*In the first month of 2012, NGC Ancients examines some of the*



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### **Counterfeit Detection: 1922 No D Lincoln Cent**

*The 1922 No D Lincoln cent has long been popular with counterfeiters but rarely do they go to the trouble of making dies.*

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### **USA Coin Album: Short and Sweet, Part Three**

This month David continues his discussion of coins that were mass produced for just a short period of time.

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### **NumisMedia Market Report: Out with the Old, In with the New**

*The beginning of a new year brings with it hopes for continued success all through the coin business.*

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### **From the NGC Archives: 1913 Proof Indian Head Buffalo Nickel Type 1**

Sculptor James Earle Fraser (1876-1953) executed this most American of United States coins.

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### **World Coins: Chinese Lunar Coins - 2012 The Year of the Dragon**

*Coins commemorating The Year of the Dragon are sure to be a popular issue with collectors.*

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### **Heritage Auctions: Rare South African Coins Highlight \$9 Million NYINC Auction**

*South African numismatics hot at NYINC Auction.*

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### **New Collectors Society Membership Tier! Conservation from NCS**

Discover the benefits of professional coin conservation from Numismatic Conservation Services (NCS).

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# 2011 NGC Registry Award Winners

Posted on 1/6/2012

*We applaud everyone for their individual accomplishments in each and every set and thank all of the members who make the Collectors Society the vibrant community it is today.*

Annually, NGC recognizes outstanding achievement in Registry set building. We would like to thank all of the participants in the NGC Registry and congratulate everyone on their individual accomplishments. The number of outstanding collections in the NGC Registry is remarkable and we are honored to have the opportunity to review them all.

Five winners were selected in each of four competitive categories: Best Classic, Best Modern, Best World and Best Presented. Additionally, we chose four winners for Custom Sets in the following categories: Best Overall, Best World, Most Creative and Most Informative. Finally, we are honoring three outstanding Collectors Journals authors.

Our team of experts reviewed all of the top sets across every category in the Registry. After much consideration, they selected the following sets. Congratulations to our winners!

## Best Classic Sets

### [Simpson — Barber Quarters 1892–1915, Proofs](#)

The series of proof Barber Quarters is a very challenging set to complete, with mintages ranging from a high of 1,245 in 1892 to just 380 in 1914. This collection is not only complete, but the average condition is superb. Its minimum grade is PF 67★, with most examples grading much finer. Highlights include the consecutive issues of 1895 and 1896 each grading NGC PF 69★ Cameo, a dazzling 1899 certified as PF 69 Ultra Cameo, and a simply amazing PF 69★ specimen of the scarce 1912 edition. The very popular first-year-of-issue 1892 quarter is a real

beauty at NGC PF 68★ Ultra Cameo.

### [TBA — Charlotte Mint Gold Complete](#)

The mint at Charlotte, North Carolina issued only gold dollars, quarter eagles and half eagles, all of them ranging from scarce to extremely rare. This fabulous collection is just three coins shy of being complete for all issues, a simply amazing accomplishment. Standout pieces include a gorgeous 1851-C gold dollar grading NGC MS 66, a very choice MS 64 example of the 1842-C Large Date half eagle, and a rare MS 65 specimen of the 1855-C half eagle. The absolute highlight, however, is a very rare MS 65 gem of the 1849-C quarter eagle.

### [Golden — Riordan Collection Gold Dollars 1854–1889, Proofs](#)

It takes a steady nerve to even commence a collection of proof gold dollars, so rare are many of the entries, and this handsome set is complete but for the two earliest issues. Nearly all are gems, most of them among the higher graded examples known. Some notable entries include the rare 1856 dollar grading NGC PF 65 Ultra Cameo, a superb 1864 in PF 66 Ultra Cameo and a dazzling 1871 (NGC PF 68 Ultra Cameo). With a mintage of only 20 proofs and 400 non-proofs, the collection's star is certainly the very rare 1875 grading NGC PF 66 Ultra Cameo.

### [AB — Morgan Dollars, 1878–1921, GSA Soft Pack Holders](#)

NGC's innovative grading of GSA dollars in their original government packaging opened up a new world of collecting which seems to have reached its pinnacle in this very thorough collection. Nearly every date/mint issue of Morgans known to have been released in the soft pack is included. There is a broad range of grades reflecting the nature of soft pack dollars. Standouts include the rare 1879-CC (NGC VG 8), 1879-S (MS 67), 1890-S (MS 63) and 1903-O (MS 64). Top score in this fascinating collection is a tie between the 1880-CC Reverse of 78 the Reverse of 79 varieties.

### [Leonard Raines — Buffalo Nickels 1913–1937, Proof Issue](#)

This charming collection proves that it doesn't require a lot of coins to win top honors. Short and sweet, this set includes all of the Buffalo Nickel proofs 1913–16 and 1936–37. All are in very high grades, several carrying the NGC ★ indicating outstanding eye appeal. Both 1913 nickels are included, grading NGC PF 67★ and PF 67, respectively. PF 68 coins include the 1915 nickel and the very scarce final matte issue of 1916. The 1936 satin finish coin is a dazzling PF 68★, and its brilliant companion grades NGC PF 67★. This collection is truly the best of the best.



## [Larry Dreher — Ailuropoda Melanoleuca Silver 10Y China Panda, Mint State \(Incl. Varieties\)](#)

This impressive collection is complete from 1989 through 2011. As its owner notes in his introduction, there are numerous varieties for many years, such as Small Date and Large Date, and these reflect the production of several Chinese mints. All of these varieties are featured in this collection. The grades are likewise outstanding, with the coins about equally divided between NGC grades of MS 69 and MS 70. Some particularly desirable entries include the 1991 Small Date and 1992 Large Date varieties, each grading MS 70.

## [Nick Cascio \(agent\) — Arthur L. Gowman Collection 1 — Roosevelt Dimes 1946-Date, Circulation Issue](#)

Coined continually for more than 65 years, the Roosevelt Dime series has grown quite large, and this impressive collection is absolutely complete for all currency and other non-proof issues. The grades are uniformly high, with numerous +,★ and FT designations attesting to their excellent overall quality. There are too many great condition rarities to list them all, but some that jump out include 1946(P) graded NGC MS 68★ FT, 1951(P) at MS 68+★ FT, 1953(P) certified as MS 68★ FT and 1963(P) at MS 67+★ FT. Top honors among the long clad series goes to the 1996-D dime (NGC MS 69 FT).

## [David Rappaport — Kennedy Half Dollars, 1964-Date, Complete Set](#)

The Kennedy Half Dollar debuted in 1964 to great public exposure, but it is known today almost solely to collectors. This rich collection spans nearly 50 years and is just a few pieces shy of completion. The condition of the coins is outstanding, with the proofs uniformly grading NGC PF 70 Ultra Cameo from 1977 onward. Perhaps more rare are the currency strikes grading MS 66 to MS 67 for most dates, with a few dazzling MS 68 rarities. Easily the superstar of this gem collection is the 1965 Special Mint Set entry grading NGC MS 67 Ultra Cameo!

## [Jason Colinger — Dr. Colinger Collection Washington Clad Set Washington Quarters 1965–1998](#)

Largely ignored before being replaced by the 50-States program of 1999, the clad series of Washington Quarters truly gets its due in this superb collection. It includes all of the non-proofs from 1965 through 1998, with only a few coins grading less than MS 67. Condition rarities abound, including a gorgeous 1968(P) grading NGC MS 68, as well as similarly-graded gems of the scarce 1979(P) and 1985-P issues. Top-point honors go to an amazing 1989-P grading MS 67, and specialists will recognize this as one of the most difficult coins in the series to find nice.

## [Specialty One — Jefferson Nickels 1938–1964, Circulation Issue](#)

The Jefferson Nickel series is another long-running issue, and this collector has opted to include only those pieces coined for circulation 1938–64. Only high-grade coins have been acquired, and the line-up of condition rarities is truly impressive, with many having the coveted 5 Full Steps and 6 Full Steps designations. Highlights include 1938-D and 1938-S (both NGC graded MS 67 5FS), 1939 Rev of 40 (MS 67), the popular overdate 1943/2-P (MS 66 5FS) and 1949-S (NGC MS 67 5FS). Strike rarities include 1956-D (MS 66 5FS) and 1964-D grading an awesome MS 67 5FS.

## Best World Sets

### [Dan Hughes — Kookaburra Silver 1 Ounce, Including Varieties, Complete Set](#)

Modern bullion coins have been among the most popular of collector issues in recent years, and this charming collection includes the complete series of Australia's Kookaburra Silver Dollars 1990–2011. More than just a run of dates, this set features all MS, PF and SP issues, as well as all of the varieties. The condition of the coins is outstanding, the grades of 68–70 predominating. Each coin is illustrated, and the individual themes are described by the set's owner.

### [TMS Coins — Cyprus Piastre Coinage, 1879–1949, Complete Circulation](#)

Cyprus was one of the cradles of civilization. The owner of this set provides a good background history of both the island and its coinage as part of the British Empire. All issues of the piastre, including both its fractions and multiples, are included in this amazing collection. Each coin is illustrated, and a fact sheet is accompanied by the owner's commentary on its rarity. Like all great NGC Registry Sets, this one serves as an encyclopedia of its subject.

### [EMO Collection — Cuba First Republic, 1915 Proof Set, Including Gold](#)

The series of coins produced at the Philadelphia Mint for Cuba in 1915–16 has long enjoyed great popularity with American collectors. This handsome set includes all of the denominations struck as proofs during 1915, some thirteen coins in all, ranging from the lowly centavo through the impressive gold 20 pesos. These coins are in quite high grades, and their appeal is obvious. Though only a few are illustrated, and no commentary is provided, it is hoped that the owner will add these features at some point. The coins are certainly worthy of such enhancement.

### [Poldan — Danzig Free City, 1923–1939, Proof Issues, Complete](#)

Now the port of Gdansk in Poland, Danzig was from 1919–39 a free city which issued its own coinage. Proofs were struck only sporadically, most of these coinciding with the first coinage issue of 1923. This collection brings together all of these rare coins, ranging from the bronze pfennig to the gold 25 gulden. All are

choice to gem proofs. The addition of illustrations and commentary would be welcomed, but the coins by themselves are rare enough to make this an impressive collection.

### [Rudman Coleccion — Dominican Republic Commemorative Issues, 1955–2000, Complete](#)

A winner in last year's competition, Rudman has scored again with a different collection, this one featuring a complete series of Dominican Republic commemoratives 1955–2000. These coins include numerous issues in silver, gold and platinum, anchored by the Discovery of American series that ran from 1988 through 1992. The condition of the coins is superb, with the top point-earner being the gold 100 peso issue dated 1988. Though lacking illustrations and commentary, this collection represents a definitive series of the island nation's commemorative heritage.

## Best Presented Sets

### [Yeoldeone — Seated Liberty Dimes, 1837–1891, Circulation Issue](#)

The series of Seated Liberty Dimes 1837–91 is a very extensive one with a great many coins needed to complete it. This wonderful collection is indeed complete for every issue save for the unique 1873-CC No Arrows, quite an accomplishment indeed. The quality of the coins is superb, with only the rarest pieces grading less than MS 65. There are too many condition rarities to list here, but what truly makes this Registry Set special is its excellent written and graphic presentation. Each coin is illustrated and described in detail, resulting in a virtual encyclopedia of the series.

### [JAA USA / Philippines Collection — USA/Philippines Type Set](#)

Near the back of the *Red Book* readers will find the unique and historically important series of coins struck by the United States for use in the Philippine Islands from 1903–45. This collection presents a complete set of the various denominations and types produced, utilizing proofs as available, with the remainder being MS coins. Each issue is illustrated and accompanied by technical and historical commentary. An interesting introductory history of the series is also provided, making for quite an educational experience.

### [Panda Halves — Gold 1/2 Ounce Panda, Mint State and Proof](#)

China's series of Panda bullion coins is so extensive that this collector has opted to on all the gold half-ounce issues alone, including both proof and uncirculated issues. This complete collection from 1982 through 2011 is fully illustrated and includes an extensive introductory essay. The owner describes in some detail the appeal and rarity of the gold half-ounce series and provides a number of reasons



why these coins make a worthy collection in and of themselves. This is an interesting and complete tutorial which epitomizes the mission of the NGC Registry to educate collectors and draw them into the collecting experience.

### [Kenneth Forsythe — Silver Statehood Quarters 1999–2008, Proofs](#)

A chance encounter with a new Pennsylvania Quarter while serving in the Army and stationed in Kosovo led this collector to the ambitious pursuit of completing the 1999–2008 series of silver statehood quarters in NGC PF 70 Ultra Cameo. With just a single upgrade now needed to fulfill this goal of perfection, the collection is awesome to behold. Making the most of his Registry participation, the owner has illustrated each coin, and it is also accompanied by a complete fact sheet listing the designer, release date, mintage and other information of interest to collectors.

### [Revenant — 1932 Mint Set](#)

This collection is not so much a numismatic one as a personal tribute to the memory of the owner's late grandmother, born in the year commemorated. Throughout it reflects a family's journey to acquire each piece needed to bring the year set to completion, with only the rare and expensive double eagle now remaining. Any collector will relate to the ups and downs of searching for just the right coin and the satisfaction that comes with a winning bid. With most coinage suspended during 1932, the set is of limited size, but each entry is well illustrated and movingly described.

## Best Overall Custom Set

### [Charles Stevens — Foreign Coins Struck at US Mints 1876–present](#)

Borrowing his theme from a book of the same name, the owner of this historically important set has attempted to recreate that book's contents in the form of the actual coins listed. The US Mint struck coins under contract to other countries 1876–1984, and the rich variety of these issues is displayed to good advantage in this set. While not yet complete, the set is handsomely crafted, with illustrations and commentary on each coin. The grades of the coins are generally high, reflecting the relative rarity of many issues. This is a very educational exhibit and quite an accomplishment for its owner.

## Best World Custom Set

### [Ram-VT — Diversity in Numismatics](#)

There are no rules when it comes to coin collecting, and this delightful set is ample proof. Years in the hobby convinced its owner that no one area is as appealing as a little of this and a little of that. This set is very large, and it includes a tremendous variety of coins, tokens and medals from ancient times to the

modern world. Amazingly, each and every piece is illustrated, and the owner provides an interesting commentary that is both numismatically factual and charmingly personal at the same time.

## Most Creative Custom Set

### [The BRG Collection — Horses](#)

Thematic collecting is always popular, and this one makes the most of coins featuring horses. In addition to a great array of coins and tokens from around the world, from ancient times to modern, the individual entries are presented in an extremely attractive and entertaining manner. A template is used that presents the coins in “postcard” form, with an enlarged view of the side bearing the horse imagery. A second postcard includes other non-numismatic images which help to tell its story and place it in context. This is a truly fun set which will appeal even to the non-collector.

## Most Informative Custom Set

### [BoneHead — BoneHead’s Collection of Errors](#)

Error coins are ideal for a display, as each one is more or less unique. This certainly is the case with this appealing set, which includes a broad range of United States Mint error pieces. The owner explains in his introduction that any manufacturing facility will make errors and that the USM is no exception. Each entry is illustrated and accompanied by an explanation of the error type, making this Registry set yet another excellent tutorial.

## Collectors’ Journals

The Collectors’ Journal awards are our chance to highlight the great entries by our members. This area of the site is all about collectors sharing their passion for the hobby with each other. We’re proud to give this award to the collectors who have done an outstanding job of journaling their collecting experience.

[lehigh96](#)

[Iowa Silver Baron Bammer](#)

[Gino Tumminia](#)

## Best in Category

And as always, we have given out the Best in Category awards for the year. A full review of the winners, including lists of the Best in Category winners can be found on our [2011 Awards Archive page](#).

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United States

# NGC Introduces First Releases Designation and Label

Posted on 12/29/2011

*Effective January 1, 2012, the NGC First Releases label is available as an alternative to the Early Releases label.*

NGC is excited to announce First Releases designation for US and World\* coins. Complete with the term FIRST RELEASES noted as part of the description on the special blue label, this designation is assigned to coins received by NGC or an NGC-approved depository during their first 30 days of release.

## Requesting First Releases Designation and Label

As of January 1, 2012, this new NGC First Releases label is available as an alternative to the Early Releases label. The First Releases label is available in single and oversize versions. Eligible coins include bullion, currency and numismatic coinage issues.



The **current** Early Releases label will be the **default** on your submission invoice, so be sure to request the First Releases label if applicable. Other special and series-specific labels available from NGC may be used in combination with the First Releases designation.

Note: First Releases and Early Releases will be grouped together under the Early Releases designation in the [NGC Census](#). Both designations indicate a coin was received by NGC within the first 30 days of its release.

## Requirements to Submit for First Releases

Coins can be submitted for the First Releases designation using the Modern Tier (or higher), as well as bulk submissions. There are no additional conditions required for the First Releases label, though the standard Early Releases requirements must still be met.

Coins sent directly to NGC do not need to be accompanied by original packaging or shipped in sealed US Mint boxes, but must arrive during the first 30 days of release.

**Remember, the First Releases label must be requested on the submission invoice!**

Use this special NGC designation to show that your coins are the first from the Mint! For more information about First Releases, visit [NGCcoin.com](https://www.ngccoin.com), or call customer service at 1-800-NGC-COIN.

*\*See website for list of eligible World coins.*

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# NGC's Certification Services for Chinese Pandas and Medals

Posted on 1/5/2012

*Read this article for information regarding Chinese Pandas and Medals.*

## Chinese Pandas

There are numerous varieties for the Chinese Panda series. Currently, NGC only recognizes select varieties of Silver and Gold Pandas. The majority consist of small and large date varieties.

To receive a variety attribution with uncertified coins being submitted for grading, simply choose VarietyPlus services on your submission form.

View the current list of [Chinese Pandas](#) NGC recognizes.

Currently, NGC does not recognize any Palladium or Platinum Panda varieties.

## Chinese Medals

NGC will only grade and encapsulate modern Chinese medals that have been made at one of the three official Mints of China (Shanghai, Shenyang, and Shenzhen Guobao). While NGC maintains a large record of official Chinese medals, we cannot guarantee that we can attribute all medals sent to us.

In order for NGC to review any official Chinese Medal (or Medallion) for attribution and grade, we request that any medal submitted to us have the appropriate verification documentation (or certificate of authenticity issued by the People's Bank of China (China Mint Company). Verification documentation should include the date of the medal (or year struck/issued), diameter and metal content, mint it was struck at and the mintage. Inclusion of documents does not guarantee attribution and grading. Failure to include this information could result in the medal

being returned un-graded with a note signifying the coin to be **Non Eligible**.

Three examples of Chinese medals that are eligible for NGC certification (all of which were struck at the Shanghai Mint, China) are:

- 1984 Hong Kong Expo – Panda Silver 1 Ounce Proof, 1,000 Minted
- 1989 Folk Gods Series: Maitreya Buddha Gold ¼ Ounce, Proof, 5,000 Minted
- 1989 Zhao Gongming Silver 3.3 Ounces, Proof, 2,430 Minted

Medals should be submitted under regular service tiers based on value.

View the complete list of US and World [Tokens and Medals](#) NGC accepts.

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United States

# NGC World Coin Registry Announcement

Posted on 1/17/2012

*Effective January 31, the NGC Coin Registry for World coins will be NGC-exclusive.*

The NGC Coin Registry is about to undergo what may be the most significant overhaul since it was started a decade ago. On January 31, the [NGC Coin Registry](#) for World coins will be NGC-exclusive, meaning that only NGC-graded coins will be eligible for inclusion. This change will result in a better experience for collectors with World coin Registry sets.

In the past few years NGC has become widely recognized as the leader in World coin grading, both in the United States and abroad. Collectors and dealers value NGC's consistent and accurate grading, as well as the NGC Guarantee. NGC continues to expand globally and currently maintains a presence in China (Guangzhou and Hong Kong), Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore and Switzerland.

Most NGC World Registry Sets are already NGC-exclusive, so this change will affect relatively few users. Ultimately, it will allow us to create more accurate Registry Sets, streamline the process for adding coins to sets, and enhance the competition. All coins will continue to appear in your Collection Manager inventory. US Coin Registry Sets will be unaffected. We apologize for any inconvenience this change may cause. Thank you for your continued support of the [NGC Coin Registry](#).

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# NGC To Evaluate Census Figures

Posted on 1/17/2012

*To ensure that we are providing accurate, up-to date Census information with the most precise counts of the coins we've graded, we've hired additional consultants to review submissions and check for any duplication of coins.*

In a continuing effort to provide the most accurate research available, NGC has hired expert consultants to evaluate the population figures in the NGC Census. The [NGC Census](#) provides population data for US and World coins graded by NGC as a service to members - both collectors and numismatic professionals. The online report is updated weekly on Mondays to offer the latest figures for coins graded by NGC.

“As part of our ongoing mission to present the most accurate and up-to-date information to collectors and dealers, we decided to delve into the NGC Census and take a look at the numbers. To ensure that we're providing the most precise counts of the coins we've graded, we've hired additional experts to review submissions and see if any duplication of coins exists,” said NGC CEO Steve Eichenbaum.

Gold coins within the [NGC US Coin Census](#) will be the first category reviewed. As NGC examines different series of coins, the population figures will most likely be adjusted to reflect the consultants' findings.

Eichenbaum went on to say, “Once the review is complete, the census numbers will most likely change, but we are confident that the report will provide a precise count of coins we have graded and an indication of the true rarity of many coins.”

The NGC Census is part of NGC's suite of research tools including the widely praised [NGC Coin Explorer](#), [NGC US Coin Price Guide](#) and [NGC World Coin Price Guide](#).

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# ANA Extends Its Long Relationship with NGC, PMG and NCS

Posted on 12/22/2011

*CCG continues relationship as ANA grading and conservation services of choice.*

[Colorado Springs] — The American Numismatic Association and Certified Collectibles Group have agreed to a five-year extension that designates Numismatic Guaranty Corporation, Paper Money Guaranty and Numismatic Conservation Services as the ANA's official grading and conservation services.

NGC is the recognized leader for consistent and accurate coin grading and has been the ANA's only official grading service since 1995.

"We are very excited about our continued relationship with the ANA, and we are honored to be the only service to ever have this designation" said Steve Eichenbaum, CEO of the Certified Collectibles Group. "The ANA and CCG share a common commitment to the advancement and betterment of the hobby, and we are happy to support the ANA's efforts."

The agreement means ANA members can continue to submit coins and paper money directly to NGC, PMG and NCS without going through a third party – one of the most popular ANA membership benefits.

CCG's independent member companies will also work with items in the ANA's Edward C. Rochette Money Museum collection – conserving 500 coins, grading 500 coins and grading 500 notes each year. Most graded items will be encapsulated in NGC's museum holders, with a special ANA museum collection label.

"This agreement will continue the beneficial partnership between the ANA and NGC, which has allowed the museum to protect its Bebee Collection of Paper

Money as well as provide better housing for its high-value coins,” ANA President Tom Hallenbeck said. “The services provided by NGC, PMG and NCS will only help to improve the collection going forward.”

The three services will also serve as Title Sponsors for the ANA’s World’s Fair of Money and for the National Money Shows for the five-year period. In addition, CCG will provide instructors in grading and conservation for a number of ANA educational programs, including Summer Seminar and ANA conventions.

To submit your coins, contact NGC directly for more information at 1-800-NGC-COIN, by e-mail at [service@ngccoin.com](mailto:service@ngccoin.com) or go to [www.NGCcoin.com](http://www.NGCcoin.com).

NCS was added as the ANA’s conservation service of choice in 2000. Its conservators are qualified to help members identify damaging conditions and can professionally conserve and stabilize coins to ensure they last a lifetime. For more information, call NCS 1-866-NCS-COIN, e-mail [ncshelp@NCScoin.com](mailto:ncshelp@NCScoin.com) or go to [www.NCScoin.com](http://www.NCScoin.com).

PMG became the ANA’s official paper money grading service in 2007. ANA members can submit their currency directly for grading and encapsulation. For more information, call at 1-877-PMG-5570, e-mail [service@PMGnotes.com](mailto:service@PMGnotes.com) or go to [www.PMGnotes.com](http://www.PMGnotes.com).

For more information or questions, call CCG at 1-800-587-1897 or visit [www.collectiblesgroup.com](http://www.collectiblesgroup.com).

The American Numismatic Association is a congressionally chartered nonprofit educational organization dedicated to encouraging people to study and collect money and related items. The ANA helps its 28,000 members and the public discover and explore the world of money through its vast array of education and outreach programs, as well as its museum, library, publications, conventions and seminars. For more information, call 719-632-2646 or go to [www.money.org](http://www.money.org).

*The thoughts and opinions in the piece are those of their author and are not necessarily the thoughts of the Certified Collectibles Group.*

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United States



# NGC Grading Coins On-site At Long Beach

Posted on 1/9/2012

*NGC will offer on-site grading, including our Silver Dollar Tier, for Morgan and Peace Dollars. All coins submitted for on-site grading will be evaluated for Plus Designation at time of grading.*

NGC will offer on-site grading and encapsulation of US coins\* at [Long Beach Coin, Stamp & Collectible Expo](#), in Long Beach, CA on **Thursday, February 2, 2012**. Please check with NGC Customer Service for submission cut-off times.

Please read below for complete details on the services offered during the show.

NGC will be offering [NGC Details Grading](#) for coins that exhibit detrimental surface conditions. This service is provided automatically and at no additional charge for all on-site grading submissions. Submitters can request to opt out of this service if they prefer to have such coins returned ungraded.

All coins certified or reholdered by NGC at shows receive the [Scratch-Resistant EdgeView® Holder](#).

## On-Site Services include :

<b>Silver Dollar Tier</b>	<b>\$30 per coin</b>
Morgan and Peace Dollars valued at \$500 and under (5-coin minimum).	
<i>Coins must be in flips.</i>	

<b>Gold Special</b>	<b>\$50 per coin</b>
Gold coins valued at \$3,000 and under (5-coin minimum).	

<b>Value WalkThrough</b>	<b>\$65 per coin</b>
Coins valued at \$1,500 and under.	

<b>WalkThrough</b>	<b>\$100 per coin</b>
Coins valued from \$1,501 to \$100,000.	
<b>Expedite WalkThrough</b>	<b>\$150 per coin</b>
Guaranteed four-hour turnaround, coins valued at \$100,000 and under. <i>Coins are returned within four hours or regular show pricing applies.</i>	
<b>High-Value WalkThrough</b>	<b>\$200 per coin</b>
Four-hour turnaround, coins valued from \$100,001 to \$500,000.	
<b>Unlimited Value WalkThrough</b>	<b>\$500 per coin</b>
Four-hour turnaround, coins valued above \$500,000.	
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\*Does not include 5-ounce coins.

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# NGC Is Hiring

Posted on 1/17/2012

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# NGC Ancients: Circulating Roman Coinage of A.D. 12: A Look Back

Posted on 1/22/2012

*In the first month of 2012, NGC Ancients examines some of the circulating coinage of the year 12.*

Two thousand years ago, the world bore little resemblance to the one we know today. In A.D. 12, the superpowers were not the United States or China, but Rome and Parthia. Greek political dominance of the Mediterranean had long since given way to the conquering Romans, though Hellenistic culture itself would continue to hold sway in the region for millennia to come.

Similarly, the Roman Republic was a thing of the past by A.D. 12, superseded by the Roman Empire, which had been founded by Augustus (27 B.C.-A.D. 14) almost forty years before. The first Roman Emperor was destined to reign two more years, but the empire he brought into being would live on for more than four centuries after his death.

The coinage of Rome in A.D. 12 had mostly assumed a form that would last, with some modifications, for roughly the next three hundred years. The basic silver unit was the denarius, equal to four brass sestertii.



This example would have been one of the more common denarii types encountered in commerce two thousand years ago. It features on the obverse a stern portrait of Augustus, who would have been between sixty and seventy-five years of age at the time this coin was struck. The reverse shows a depiction of Gaius and Lucius Caesars, two grandsons and adopted heirs of Augustus who would die before having the opportunity to assume power; that honor eventually fell to

Tiberius, who succeeded Augustus upon his death in A.D. 14.

It is interesting to note that this denarius type was so prominent that it was still counterfeited by Germanic tribes for many decades (and possibly even centuries) to come. This coin is a crude but instantly recognizable copy of the original



illustrated above, and was possibly produced as late as the third century A.D., more than two hundred years after the original issuer of the coin had died.

Ironically, three years before the year 12, one of Augustus's generals, P. Quinctilius Varus, had lost three legions to an ambush in Germany, a catastrophic event that brought Roman expansion in the north to a sudden halt.



In addition to the imperial denarii of Augustus, many Republican denarii would still have been circulating as well. Those coins were reminders of a time that was only forty years in the past.

This denarius, a particularly fine example, issued under the authority of the moneyer Cn. Egnatius Cn.f. Cn.n. Maxsumus in 76 B.C., depicts Cupid on the obverse and on the reverse a temple with Jupiter and Libertas standing within.

Though far less common than the silver denarius, this gold aureus of Augustus may have been encountered by a merchant in the year 12, as evidenced by the banker's mark behind the head of Augustus on the obverse.



The reverse commemorates the Battle of Actium (31 B.C.), in which Augustus and his longtime general, Agrippa, defeated the combined forces of Marc Antony and Cleopatra VII. This monumental event effectively marked the end of the Roman Republic and paved the way for the foundation of the Empire under Augustus



Far more common were the bronze denominations: the as, dupondius, and sestertius. This coin, which would have been about twenty years old in A.D. 12, is classified as either an as or a dupondius. Unlike issues under later emperors, where the dupondius

denomination is indicated by a radiate crown on the bust, the difference between the "as" and "dupondius" under Augustus is often unclear. This coin, struck under the authority of the moneyer M. Maecilius Tullus, depicts a bust of Augustus with

the figure of Victory behind his head. The reverse features an inscription surrounding the letters “SC,” signifying that the Roman Senate had (nominally, at least) authorized this particular issue. The coin may commemorate the military victories of Tiberius in Germania around the year 7 B.C., but this is open to scholarly interpretation at present.

This sestertius, which was minted A.D. 10-14, is another example of circulating Roman imperial coinage of two thousand years ago. The obverse features a portrait of Augustus, and the reverse depicts the Great Altar of Lugdunum, the city where the coin itself was minted. The altar was the site of worship for a cult devoted to Rome and Augustus.



Interestingly, this rare sestertius, which was probably struck between A.D. 12 and 14, illustrates an empire on the verge of transition. Though the reverse type is the same as the issue of Augustus illustrated above, this coin

features a portrait of Tiberius on the obverse. Tiberius, one of the adopted heirs of Augustus, was still two years away from becoming the second Roman Emperor, but in the year 12 was already being groomed for power in the subordinate position of Caesar.

The coinage that would have circulated throughout the Roman Empire in the year A.D. 12 provides a record of a civilization that has long since passed into the history books. It reflects a very interesting time in the overall chronology of the Romans: the later years of the Republic would have been a not-so-distant memory to many citizens, but the Empire was becoming firmly established and destined to endure for centuries to come.

*Images courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group.*

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# Counterfeit Detection: 1922 No D Lincoln Cent

Posted on 1/17/2012

*The 1922 No D Lincoln cent has long been popular with counterfeiters but rarely do they go to the trouble of making dies.*

As a well known rarity, the 1922 No D Lincoln cent has been the target of counterfeiters for decades. Numismatists have cataloged three varieties of 1922 No D cents: Weak D, Weak Reverse, and Strong Reverse. The latter, which was caused when excessive die polishing effaced the mintmark from the die, is the most popular of the three and generally considered to be the “true” 1922 No D. No cents were struck at Philadelphia in 1922, and these varieties have since become popular with collectors as distinct issues required for a complete set.

According to the NGC US Coin Price Guide, the 1922 No D Strong Reverse is worth \$680 in Good condition. That price quickly rises in higher grades, and better circulated examples sell for nearly five figures. The 1922-D, on the other hand, is worth under \$100 in all circulated grades. A counterfeiter could simply remove the D and attempt to pass it off as a 1922 No D, with a potentially huge profit.

There are not nearly as many fakes of the 1922 No D cents as there are of the 1909-S VDB and 1914-D cents. When an illegitimate 1922 No D cent is received by NGC, it is almost always an alteration. It is fairly easy for a counterfeiter to use a tool to scratch away the D, but this typically leaves prominent tooling marks, which aid in detection.



Counterfeit 1922 No D Lincoln cent  
*click image to enlarge*

As I sat down to write this article, NGC graders identified a fake 1922 No D cent that was struck by dies. It is very unusual to see a die struck counterfeit 1922 No D cent because of the added work required to craft dies. This piece is not particularly deceptive: all of the details are weak, the surfaces have numerous tiny raised dots, and the color is off. There is also a strange “wire rim” at the upper left obverse. Nonetheless, since this fake was struck by counterfeit dies, there are undoubtedly many more like it. Pay close attention to this counterfeit and make sure to familiarize yourself with the diagnostics of genuine examples.

*For more on counterfeit Lincoln cents, see NGC’s “Altered Key Lincolns” in the December 2011 issue of the ANA’s The Numismatist.*

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# USA Coin Album: Short and Sweet, Part Three

Posted on 1/17/2012

*This month David continues his discussion of coins that were mass produced for just a short period of time.*

This month I conclude my study of coin designs that initially were satisfying to the eye yet were ultimately altered in ways that reduced their appeal. The debut of the new half dollar honoring slain President John F. Kennedy was one of the most eagerly anticipated numismatic events both at home and around the Western World. As issued in 1964, this coin was an extremely attractive piece of coinage art. Its obverse featured a very accurate and skillful portrait of JFK, while its reverse included a rendition of the always-appealing presidential seal. Technically perfect as well, nearly all of the resulting coins were sharply struck and well detailed.



These master hubs remained in use through the end of silver-clad coinage in 1970, but the transition to the much harder copper-nickel-clad composition in 1971 prompted a series of catastrophic alterations to both sides of the Kennedy half dollar. The 1971 halves displayed a noticeable reduction in the size of the portrait, this accompanied by oversize borders. It was hoped by the Mint that these changes would compensate for the greater challenge of filling the dies, yet the 1971 circulating half dollars were nearly all mushy and incomplete. This was particularly evident on the reverse, the shield and tail feathers appearing misshapen and ill-defined. The portrait was restored to nearly its original size in 1972, but Kennedy halves of the next 15 years never struck up well. Alterations which began in the late 1980s and continued for the next several years reduced the relief of this coin type drastically. Though this solved the problem of incomplete strikes, it also rendered the Kennedy half dollar a comical imitation of

the 1964-70 version, a fate shared with all of our circulating coins during that same time period.

One of the silliest changes made to an otherwise satisfactory coin was the relocation of the motto IN GOD WE TRUST on the Presidential dollar series.

When these coins debuted in 2007, this motto and E PLURIBUS UNUM, as well as the date and mintmark, were wisely placed on the coins' edges. This reduced the typically cluttered look of most modern USA coins while still conforming to the requirements of law. The seemingly hidden location of the motto IN GOD WE TRUST was seized upon by both evangelicals and opportunistic politicians as some sort of atheist conspiracy, though Congress had approved the specifications of the coins in the authorizing legislation. In a knee-jerk action, Congress then demanded that IN GOD WE TRUST be moved to the coin's obverse, which forced a relocation and reduction in size of the more significant legend enumerating the president being honored on each coin. All dollars in this series since 2009 have been so coined and are noticeably diminished in attractiveness and historic value.

The flap over IN GOD WE TRUST that forced an alteration to the Presidential dollars was history repeating itself, as a similar outcry erupted with the debut of new eagles and double eagles in 1907. These splendid coins were the work of Augustus Saint-Gaudens and were universally praised by numismatists and art critics. The religious motto was omitted intentionally at the request of President Theodore Roosevelt, who believed its inclusion on money was sacrilegious. There were those who found its omission objectionable, and Congress forced its addition midway through 1908's coinage. In this instance, however, the addition was one that did not detract from the coins significantly. The motto actually served to balance the design on the gold eagle, while serving a similar function on the double eagle. The Mint also took this opportunity to create sharper master hubs for both coins. The original hub reductions had been botched, leaving the "No Motto" coins with a flat and indistinct appearance. The new coinage was much sharper in all details.

In an earlier installment of this column it was noted how the Christian Gobrecht-designed copper and silver coins of the early 1840s were altered through the introduction of much heavier lettering. A similar fate befell his gold half eagle in 1842, when the Mint transitioned from the original reverse legend, which was correctly proportioned, to much larger and heavier lettering which overpowered the central motif of an eagle and gave the coin a cluttered look. The other Coronet Liberty gold coins by Christian Gobrecht did not undergo this change in lettering style, though the reverse legend on the quarter eagle was reduced in size slightly beginning in 1859.

Gobrecht’s eagle, or ten-dollar piece, was the first gold coin of the Coronet Liberty type to appear. Upon it debut in 1838 the portrait of Liberty was tilted forward and featured sweeping hair over her ear. That year’s coinage and part of 1839’s included this first version, but the portrait was altered midway through 1839 to simplify Liberty’s hair and give the bust a more conventional orientation. The reverse lettering was reduced in size, but the change was so slight as to be nearly meaningless. These coins are distinguished almost entirely by their bust styles. The aesthetic loss of the original portrait was minor, but it was this revised bust that was used when the Coronet half eagles and quarter eagles debuted in 1839 and 1840, respectively.

*David W. Lange's column, “USA Coin Album,” appears monthly in the Numismatist, the official publication of the [American Numismatic Association](#).*

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# NumisMedia Market Report: Out with the Old, In with the New

Posted on 1/17/2012

*The beginning of a new year brings with it hopes for continued success all through the coin business.*

While 2011 was a remarkable year for most dealers, the decline in the metals over the last several weeks has put a damper on the overall market. Many buyers typically postpone major purchases as the year ends, while others wait for the annual FUN Convention in Florida. If the metals continue in their current pattern, it should have a significant impact on the first major show of the year.

In today's market, a significant number of advanced collectors and investors are taking advantage of major auctions to purchase rarities. One of the benefits here is that you can see how the competition feels about certain coins. If there is a lot of interest, it reinforces attitudes about demand in the overall scheme of acquisitions. Heritage Galleries will host the Official Sale at the FUN Convention, which includes a special offering on Platinum Night. This is always a very exclusive event and is sure to please many collectors. There is no end to the number of rarities offered in this sale. Competition will be quite aggressive, especially for coins that have low populations in high grades.

A look back at the year in Morgan and Peace Dollars illustrates robust advances, new highs, and stability at year's end. At the beginning of 2011, MS 65 common date Morgan Dollars showed an FMV of \$173. The year ended at \$194. This is a nice increase of 12% for the year. Nonetheless, there were opportunities to make much more money throughout the year as this market had a lovely run to \$263 in May before heading back down to the current level. The following chart shows month-by-month FMV for the MS 65 and MS 66 Morgan Dollar.

<b>Morgan Dollar</b>	<b>MS65 FMV</b>	<b>MS66 FMV</b>
Jan 2011	\$173	\$338
Feb 2011	\$178	\$338
Mar 2011	\$193	\$338
Apr 2011	\$215	\$369
May 2011	\$263	\$488
Jun 2011	\$231	\$500
Jul 2011	\$206	\$475
Aug 2011	\$210	\$488
Sept 2011	\$210	\$488
Oct 2011	\$206	\$475
Nov 2011	\$200	\$450
Dec 2011	\$194	\$444

As you can see the MS 66 made a more spectacular advance during the year and finished the year higher by 31%. The market making dealers in this series were so busy from April to June that they barely had time for all the bullion activity that took place.

While common Peace Dollars had the same type of advances during 2011, they did not have the consistency of the Morgan Dollars. This is simply due to the fact that Morgan Dollars are more popular. The MS 65 Peace Dollar began 2011 at \$148 FMV and wound up at \$185; this is up by 25%. However, although the MS 66 did rise to \$690, it did not have the strength to create the kind of increases that the other coins showed. Hundreds and thousands of MS 66 Peace Dollars were trading, but the overall market was fairly balanced and there were probably more coins in the market than were needed at the time. At year’s end the MS 66 was actually down by almost 5%.

The following chart shows the month-by-month movements of the FMV for the MS 65 and MS 66 Peace Dollars.

<b>Peace Dollar</b>	<b>MS65 FMV</b>	<b>MS66 FMV</b>
Jan 2011	\$148	\$660
Feb 2011	\$150	\$660
Mar 2011	\$160	\$660
Apr 2011	\$175	\$660
May 2011	\$231	\$690
Jun 2011	\$225	\$670
Jul 2011	\$200	\$670
Aug 2011	\$210	\$670
Sept 2011	\$206	\$660
Oct 2011	\$194	\$660
Nov 2011	\$190	\$640
Dec 2011	\$185	\$630



Again the busiest months were from April to June when almost every dealer was participating in this market. They were selling Dollars to most of their customers and everyone was making a lot of money. Then the metals began to move more dramatically on a daily basis and everyone turned to Gold, Silver, and Platinum. From the beginning of July to the middle of September, Gold rose from \$1,483 to well over \$1,800. The daily movement of the metals demanded the attention of every dealer and the rest of the coin market was of secondary importance. How the metals will perform and the effects it will have on the overall coin market will be the theme for 2012. What you can be sure of is that Silver Dollars will continue to attract novice buyers as well as advanced collectors.

*This article is a guest article written by:*



*The thoughts and opinions in the piece are those of their author and are not necessarily the thoughts of the Certified Collectibles Group.*

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# From the NGC Archives: 1913 Proof Indian Head Buffalo Nickel Type 1

Posted on 1/17/2012

*Sculptor James Earle Fraser (1876-1953) executed this most American of United States coins.*

His bold models, considered radical and impractical by Chief Engraver Charles Barber, resulted in a coin of outstanding character and beauty.



The Philadelphia Mint reportedly struck 1,520 proof examples of this first type of Indian Head/Buffalo Nickel. The number surviving is somewhat less, and very few of these are high-grade pieces. In fact, most Type 1 proofs are quite disappointing in quality, evidently as made. In contrast, this superb gem is everything that a collector could desire. Its strike is absolutely complete in every fine detail. Though commonly described as a matte proof, this specimen is quite satiny and bright. Its surfaces are entirely free of marks.

Are you interested in Buffalo Nickels? Click [here](#) to visit the NGC Coin Explorer and read more.

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United States

# World Coins: Chinese Lunar Coins - 2012 The Year of the Dragon

Posted on 1/18/2012

*Coins commemorating The Year of the Dragon are sure to be a popular issue with collectors.*

On January 23, 2012, the Chinese New Year will be celebrated as the Year of the Dragon. The lunar zodiac is celebrated in many countries including Asia. Numerous countries issue commemorative coins featuring the zodiac animals and the Year of the Dragon will certainly be one of the most popular.



There are many mythologies and religious ideologies behind the origins of the Chinese Zodiac. The earliest record stems from circa 2600 BCE when Emperor Huang Ti introduced the first recorded lunar cycle. Some believe the idea came from Buddhism. It is said that Buddha summoned all of the animals on earth before his departure. Only 12 animals came to greet him, so he named a year after each one. There are also many stories that explain how the animals were chosen, their sequence and their relationships with each other.



The zodiac animal assigned by the year an individual is born is believed to influence their personality. Character traits for those born in the Year of the Dragon include strong, vigorous, proud, noble and intellectual as well as arrogant, demanding, violent and brash.



While zodiac symbols were used in the past to date coins, the first official commemorative for the Chinese zodiac

was the 1976 Hong Kong \$1,000 gold, for the Year of the Dragon. Lunar commemorative coins quickly gained in popularity throughout the world as collectors found the animal-themed designs appealing. Soon many countries including Australia, Bhutan, Cambodia, Canada, China, Equatorial Guinea, Lao, Mongolia, Russia, France, Taiwan, Fiji, Hong Kong, Isle of Man, Liberia, Macao, Malawi, Niue, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine and Vietnam were producing commemorative coins featuring zodiac animals.

The Year of the Dragon is one of the most popular coins in the series. The mythological creature is open to many artistic interpretations and is one that many collectors seem to favor. With the current popularity of Chinese coins and bullion, the Year of the Dragon should be a very popular issue. With so many countries hoping to capitalize on the demand for zodiac coinage, collectors should have no shortage of options to choose from.



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 United States 

# Heritage Auctions: Rare South African Coins Highlight \$9 Million NYINC Auction

Posted on 1/11/2012

*South African numismatics hot at NYINC Auction.*

[Dallas, TX] – A pair of South African rarities led all lots as our [first auction of 2012](#)

brought in over \$9 million in New York, January 2 and 3. All prices include a 15% Buyer's Premium.

South African numismatics is hot, and the prices in this auction show why. Atop the auction results was a unique [bronze 1928-SA pattern sovereign](#). Graded Matte Proof 64 by NGC, this coin appealed to countless collectors worldwide — collectors of sovereigns, patterns, George V coinage, or simply super-rare coins. Estimated at \$40,000-\$50,000, this coin realized \$184,000 when bidding ended. Right behind this rarity was a spectacular [proof 5 shilling piece dated 1892 and graded Proof 66 Cameo by NGC](#). This beauty from the Orange River Collection is one of an estimated mintage of only 25 pieces and perhaps the finest we have ever seen. With a final price of \$161,000, it roughly doubled the pre-auction estimate.

Two other numismatic hotbeds contributed the next three results from this auction. From Brazil, a pair of extremely rare 6400 Reis coins from 1827 — [one from the Rio mint](#) and [one from Bahia](#) — realized \$143,750 and \$126,500 respectively.

Others among the many highlights of this auction included:

• <a href="#">South</a>	

[Africa: Republic gold Burgers Pond 1874, KM1.2, MS64 NGC](#). Sold for

\$71,875.

- Regensburg. Free City gold 8 Ducats, ND (1765-90), Fr-2558, MS63 Prooflike NGC. Sold for \$69,000.
- Poland: Nicholas I Proof 10 Zlotych-11/2 Roubles 1833 HГ (St. Petersburg), KM-C134, Proof 67 NGC. Sold for \$63,250.
- Russia: Nicholas I Novodel Family 1-1/2 Roubles 1836, KM-C172.2, MS61 NGC. Sold for \$57,500.
- Argentina: La Rioja gold 8 Escudos General Rosas 1842R, KM14, XF40 NGC. Sold for \$51,750.
- South Africa: George VI "Short" Proof Set 1939, 8 pieces, farthing to 2 1/2 shillings, KM-PS14. Sold for \$51,750.
- South Africa: Republic gold Veld Pond 1902, KM11, MS64 NGC. Sold for \$48,875.
- China: Hupeh. Tael Year 30 (1904), KM-Y128.2, MS64 NGC. Sold for \$46,000.
- South Africa: Republic gold Threepence 1898, KM-PnA23, MS64 NGC. Sold for \$46,000.

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# New Collectors Society Membership Tier! Conservation from NCS

Posted on 12/21/2011

*Discover the benefits of professional coin conservation from Numismatic Conservation Services (NCS).*

**Effective January 3, 2012**, we are launching a new Collectors Society tier that combines professional conservation from NCS with grading from NGC. The Premium Plus Collectors Society membership gives you a coupon to submit five uncertified coins, valued at \$3,000 or less, to be conserved by NCS and then graded by NGC. At only \$249, this membership offers a significant savings.

Many coins can benefit from professional numismatic conservation. Coins with active surface contaminants such as PVC or residue are not eligible for grading by NGC. Conservation from NCS, however, can remove these contaminants and neutralize the coin's surface, making a coin eligible for NGC certification and ensuring its long term preservation. Many collectors rely on professional conservation as a form of ongoing maintenance, similar to a health check up or an oil change for a vehicle. No coin's surface is impervious to natural degradation, and coins may require some form of surface neutralization even if they are kept by the most diligent of collectors. Read more about the [benefits of conservation](#) .

Watch for our eblast or check [www.NCScoin.com](http://www.NCScoin.com) to sign up.

*NCS and NGC are independent members of the Certified Collectibles Group, a group of companies focused on impartial, independent and expert certification and grading of collectibles and their conservation.*

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